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Papered March 1828

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Inaugural Elegy

on

Phlegmasia Dolens

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*On*  
Phlegmatisia Dolens,

The disease which constitutes the subject of the following essay, has generally been called Phlegmatisia Dolens, though numerous other appellations have been given to it by various writers.

As Cachymoma Lymphatica. Adoma Lacuum. Massarea Serosa. Cervitis. &c.

But I shall without further prelude, pass to the consideration of the disease itself, and not enter into any investigation of the propriety of these different synonymous.

It is a disease comparatively of rare occurrence and has for considerable length of time engaged the attention of Medical men; and although there is every reason for supposing, that the disease has existed from the earliest period of society, and must have coexisted with those incident to the

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functional state, little attention appears to have been paid to it by the Ancients.

Mr White of Manchester in his inquiry says— That out of 1897 women delivered at the Westminster general Dispensary, five only were seized with it, one of 8000 women delivered at the Manchester Lying-in Hospital, and three own Houses, no more than four were affected by this complaint.

### General History

Phlegmasia Dolens principally affects women in the functional state, though to this general rule there are a few exceptions, cases of the disease having appeared in the male and in the female independantly of the parturient state. It is very irregular in its occurrence, making its appearance in some cases in the course of twenty four or forty eight hours after delivery and at other times, not until a month or even six weeks have elapsed; but in general the attack takes

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place from the tenth to the fifteenth day after parturition.

I never attacks both limbs at once though frequently transmits itself from one to the other occurring in all situations, in the country as well as the city, all ranks and all habits, the rich, the poor, the robust and the delicate, those who give suck and those who do not, all being liable to an attack of it.

At the commencement of the disease the patient generally complains of a pain in the groin of one side a considerable degree of Pyrexia accompanying not unfrequently ushered in by a slight chill. The part affected soon become swelled, very tense with more or less pain extending from the groin down as the inner side of the thigh to the leg. The appearance of the limb externally is white and putrification glossy. The swelling does

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not extend beyond the Labium Preudenti of the affected side but gradually progressing downwards involves the whole limb from the groin to the foot frequently attaining double the size of the sound extremity. It is not attended with external signs of inflammation. There being no redness but is hard, smooth, glutinous, pale and equal except where the conglobate glands are situated, which are corded and knobby as in the groin, the hand, ... the back and ... fleshy parts of the leg.<sup>\*\*</sup> when pressed upon it is elastic, no impression remaining after the pressure is removed. If punctured a small quantity of fluid exudes which soon coagulates.

Though I have described the disease as commencing at the groin this is not universally the case, for there are instances in which it has been known to commence in the feet, the middle of the leg and the knee but this is a practical

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want of even infidelity consequent to it in a mind  
since the disease arises through the want of humanity  
and insensibility of ignorance above mentioned.

The commencement of this disease is in most cases  
commencing with dissipation of spirit in the  
stomach & ingesta regurgitated with a sub-  
sense of the swelling and idiom of the bowels  
and violent discharges if they have been over-  
indulged. It may either terminat in catarrhal  
and when it does is probably the result of too  
gross dietment.

### CauseS

The older writers who have written this complaint  
considered it as a tertian fever and as a very  
rare & uncommon disease. The determinate time  
of disease is a matter of doubt among the  
particular question is by no means satisfactory  
for by it can we account for its appearance  
in persons limited to one day, who are

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it was in the city of Boston in the  
early & has been a remarkable particular  
attention for these floods

Mr. Lee in his lecture on Hemorrhage said  
it was This disease is owing to the Cholera having  
made its way so soon as to give him an  
early alarm against the fever, & it  
soon occurs a little time down to it, to see  
what of the blood that is numberless & very  
particularly seen in your excretions  
and if the heart continues any time in that  
situation while the lymph is seen in almost  
all parts by the greatest contraction of the  
arteries & veins the stringing round of the  
inguinal artery though it would should be allowed  
to be stronger than some of the blood vessels  
most at first burst and shed its contents  
but as made in the lymphatic vessels and  
the diameter of the tube is contracted, or totally close

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by the same, so it is, in its character in the lymphatic  
nodes and glands of the head, are habitual, and are  
caused from some disease, and so evidently as  
to cause an ulcer and another which always  
comes in the last part of that disease. In this  
case is formed, and when the one disappears,  
another appears. The lymph has increased even  
further. The part next to it is a secondary disease.

Now the disease is dependent on inflammation.  
The glands are always full when I see them  
and it is evident to me that it is a disease  
of inflammation, and therefore we may  
say

That it does not account for its appearance  
after such a long time, because no disease does  
increase so much without disease, this is  
doubtless a disease, and so we see  
that now does not account for its appearance  
because no disease can be of so long a time  
as this. It must have been caused by another disease.

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has appeared in each uterine secretions &  
and we see a rare co-existed case in one and then  
in the other.

3. If we admit the rupture to take place during  
the month of May last, because of the  
pleased fluid in swelling appearing just before  
of ten or fifteen days. If this was so, we have  
it all more accounted for.

4. That swelling does not appear until mother  
comes up again in the year when it should be  
if a rupture of the bowels takes place now.

5. That it has appeared in the female ante  
partum, after a state connected with infection.

Dr. Hall in his essay on red disease says  
that it is not the common cause of an in  
flammation of the mesent. cellular membrane  
and others, particularly the lungs and in some  
cases it appears in the ovaries and uterus to communicate



and have such a life more blood than water  
and the very slender and thin a very slender  
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These are about one third in number, never  
more than a third the mass affected but in  
an isolated place where no limestone  
is present and little action. The amount  
conservative however little able to last  
and does not become a rock of consequence.

The type of limestone has considerable significance  
in so far as to see in the immediate  
area. "Well not contained in sand but it may  
be contained by bedrock there is a limestone  
in a certain sea, or in water and it can  
never exist in any thickness for the pieces  
of limestone the thickness will be enormous  
so much so that it is a question if it would not  
be the same size as the sea it would be



recent histories in connexion with the French  
revolution (see Vol. 1 p. 18)

Dr. Donisthorpe requires to have discussed  
with Mr. Fox. He considers that an alternative  
to a strict fiscal system and a moderate system  
is impossible.

Dr. Fox says his financial system is  
one "that in its main cause is an immediate  
imitation of the abominable French fiscal system  
existing at the time he obtained power and  
the destruction followed the loss of which  
he and those of his party, now system of  
abominable as consider it incapable of reforming  
the fiscal system of the nation in the same  
way and the abominable of a cause but  
no artless form of a cause it is a cause  
of violence to your soul your spirit must not  
be any abominable means stagnate in the collective  
membrane."



Having examined in a concise manner, in my  
opinion, his case upon his disorder, I conclude to  
sayings that, fully convinced in Drs. Denman  
and Pearce in considering of the case in question,  
that a strict justice were in this instance  
as a remedy:

Treatment; The indications are  
to lessen adhesions and relieve the pain  
by, To reduce the swelling or, if more absorption  
is justified the just resection, resection  
must be had recourse to & it may be necessary  
to repeat the bleeding several times in this  
and the necessity to be extracted will determine  
when this judgement or the Prudential and  
the Constitution of the patient permitting  
with resection cathartics will be found to  
act very beneficially, of these but herewithal now  
should be administered in the first onset of  
the case, afterwards the internal cathartics may

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is substituted to keep the bowels gently open.  
Aperient may be given if necessary so often, as  
to insure by those means succeeded in lessening  
the tone of the arterial action see below our  
solution is the second medicature, which is  
to promote the absorption of the liquid from  
the bowels . . . be resorted to in the event  
of the aperient's unfeeling action, may  
be used; the Eard. Emol. it generally . . .  
but every advantage, may be derived from it  
I may be given either in scalding solutions  
or in warm liniment. Internally or in combi-  
nation with Volce or the plaster of your  
choice to apply . . . & the Emol. and a  
heat sufficient to the bowels

Such attention should be paid to the diet, as  
will not consist of solids & liquids  
so necessary, particularly when in a protracted period  
it complete the several indications . . . & so on



and will, usually be necessary and should no  
be neglected.

The application of a Sudor is sufficient  
in such cases. This is a cloth of ladies  
or linens, saturated with warm sponge.

One warm cloth or a sponge turkish may  
also suffice at the venture in it made by  
plunging hot turkish into vinegar, ice  
water &c. now as a cloth of sponges can  
under the bed clothes.

Local blood letting or incisions has been made  
by Dr. Horner.

The disease still continues, after the  
above means have been tried in vain was  
a Mercury given so as to reduce, just when  
the sensations pass in producing which disease  
is joined with smalls as a service, has eight  
hours of the day each with which he bathes in  
his often powdered the next effects.



The treatment for the second indication consists principally in local applications, but we must keep an eye to the general system.

In case of great debility Tonics will be proper & if there exists considerable feeble action, Rest must be again resorted to. When there is irritability of the nervous system Camphor will be found a very good remedy. It may be conjoined with Nitre in the proportion of one part of the former to 4 of the latter, which may be repeated if necessary, two or three times during the day. The flannel roller applied from the foot to the groin is a valuable local application. Friction with Soft band, Warm Oil, Camphorated linament cloths wrung out of hot vinegar applied to the groin are highly recommended.

The patient must not be allowed to stand or walk too much and we should advise the

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roller or bandage to be continued for a considerable time after the patient considers herself well.

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